



Mark A. Borkowski

Milwaukee County Supervisor - 11th District

July 18, 2011


Dear County Executive Abele,

During your successful campaign for County Executive, we all learned of your positive working relationship with Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. It is good when cooperation benefits the entire community. However, I am troubled by his insistence on forcing a \$64 million streetcar onto the downtown district when our own mass transit is being crippled beyond repair. I am even more mortified when I hear the Mayor suggest that the county will operate it! What?

I realize the Mayor will say that the city must use this federal money for streetcars. Well, here is where the cooperation comes in.

We have Federal legislators who are very responsive to the plight of mass transit (Senator Kohl, Representative Moore come to mind). Their constituents won't benefit from the streetcar; in fact, they'll be hurt if the bus service continues to crumble.

As you know, State funding for our bus system was reduced by \$7 million for 2012. We need all the help we can get to preserve buses, which currently connect the majority of neighborhoods in Milwaukee County. Rather than spending money on a streetcar that relatively few people will use, I am asking you to work with the Mayor and the federal government to use the "streetcar" money for the bus system. This original plan is a gross waste of tax dollars and does nothing but hurt transit in the long run.

Sincerely,

Mark Borkowski
Milwaukee County Supervisor

Cc: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

County Responsibilities: Chairman of Milwaukee County Council on Emergency Medical Services, Personnel Committee Member, Intergovernmental Relations Committee Member, Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee Member